



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

News Release

Pacific Islands External Affairs Office

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For Release: November 22, 2005
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PIEA-05-32

Fish and Wildlife Service Seeking Proposals for Private Stewardship Grants Program

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking proposals for private land conservation funding through its Private Stewardship Grants Program. For FY 2006, approximately \$6.5 million is available through this grant program to support on-the-ground conservation efforts on private lands. Proposals must be submitted to the Regional Offices of the Service by January 23, 2006.

This program provides Federal grants on a competitive basis to individuals and groups engaged in voluntary conservation efforts on private lands that benefit imperiled species such as federally listed endangered or threatened species as well as proposed candidate and other at-risk species. Landowners and their partners may submit proposals directly to the Service for funding to support those efforts.

In 2005, private landowners in Hawaii were awarded \$580,198 to help conserve and restore native habitat for a wide range of species from endangered Hawaiian forest birds on the Big Island to endangered plants on Maui.

In the first two years of the program, 210 Private Stewardship grants totaling more than \$16 million were awarded to private landowners across the country. During this time, Hawaii was awarded more money than any other state, receiving \$2,340,827.

Applications must be received in Portland, Oregon, by January 23, 2006. Information on how and where to submit proposals is available at the Service's Private Stewardship Grant Website at http://endangered.fws.gov/grants/private_stewardship/index.html. Completed proposals must be submitted to: PSPG Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 911 N.E. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181.

Project proposals from Hawaii compete for funding with those from other western states. Applicants are encouraged to seek additional guidance from Service representatives in Hawaii prior to submitting a proposal. Please contact Craig Rowland at 808/792-9450 or e-mail at craig_rowland@fws.gov if you plan to submit a proposal.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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